



# South Atlantic Update

Published for fishermen & women and others interested in marine conservation

July, 1996



## Mackerel Annual Adjustments Set for 1996-1997 Fishing Season

After reviewing the Annual Stock Assessment for Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerel, the council took advisory panel recommendations and voted to change the quotas for these species at the June meeting in Key West, Florida.

Each year the council submits recommended changes in total allowable catch (TAC), bag limits and trip limits through a seasonal framework, after reviewing the annual stock assessment report.

**T**his year, the Stock Assessment Panel incorporated bycatch mortality of mackerels in the shrimp fishery, data not previously considered in Atlantic group mackerel assessments. This drove the allowable biological catch (ABC) range for Atlantic king mackerel down from 7.3-10.5 million pounds last year to 4.1-6.8 million pounds for 1996/1997. The ABC range for Atlantic Spanish mackerel dropped from 4.9-14.7 million pounds last year to 5-7 million pounds for 1996/1997.

The ABC range is the total number of fish which may be harvested in order to leave enough spawning stock to replenish the supply; thus the council looked within the new ABC range to set this year's TAC. Once the new quota is filled, the fishery will close until the start of the new fishing year.

*See Mackerel, page 5*

## Council Continues Refining Options for Snapper Grouper Limited Entry

The council continued refining options for Snapper Grouper Amendments 8 and 9 at the June meeting in Key West.

Amendment 8 proposes traditional management measures, such as size limits, gear restrictions, bag limits, closed seasons and trip limits to rebuild several species in the snapper grouper complex.

Amendment 9 proposes to limit effort in this fishery by reducing the number of vessels allowed to fish for snapper grouper species. Currently the size and capacity of fleets fishing for these species is significantly higher than the stocks can sustain on a long-term basis.

The council made several changes to both documents by adding and deleting options. Currently, the preferred alternative for Amendment 9 is to limit permit holders to those who held valid snapper grouper permits for 1993, 1994, and 1995. Council deleted the logbook requirement from the preferred alternative after numerous fishermen reported that the logbook system contains many flaws.

The council will revisit these issues at the August 19-23 meeting in Charleston, SC, and may approve the amendments for public hearing at that time.






# Council Seeking Advisory Panel Members

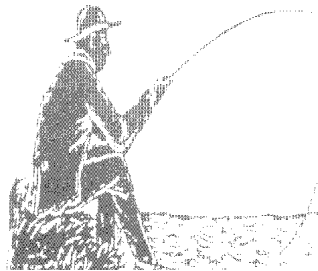
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The South Atlantic Council has openings on a variety of advisory panels. Advisory panels help guide the council throughout the management process by providing first-hand, professional knowledge and advice concerning fisheries issues. Development of fisheries regulations are based, in part, on advisory panel input.

Advisory panels may meet once or twice a year, depending on the issues at hand. Attendance is required, and appointments are for three-year terms. Travel costs, including transportation, food and lodging, are reimbursed by the council in accordance with council policy.

If you are interested in serving on one of the following panels, please call the council office to request an application. These positions will be filled at our August 19-23 meeting.

-  **Coral**
-  **Spiny Lobster**
-  **Mackerel**
-  **Shrimp**
-  **Habitat and Environmental Protection**



-  **Red Drum**
-  **Flounder**
-  **Law Enforcement**
-  **\*Snapper Grouper**

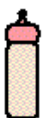
*\*With regard to Snapper Grouper, we are particularly interested in applicants from the South Florida area, as well as recreational and charterboat fishermen from North Carolina.*

We are expanding our advisory panel expertise to incorporate conservation, habitat and environmental input. For now we are concentrating on the Coral, Shrimp, Rock Shrimp, and Snapper Grouper Advisory Panels. Those interested in applying for one of these positions should call the council office at 803-571-4366.



## It's A Girl!!!

Congratulations to South Atlantic council member LTCDR Chris Sinnett and his wife, Kathy on the birth of their second child, Allison Marie, who was born on June 8, 1996 at 7:25 pm; weighing in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Allison has an older sister, two year old Sarah Elizabeth. Mommy and baby are doing great. And Daddy??? He says becoming a parent for the second time is much easier than the first. "Kind of like doing your second FMP," he said.



# Guest Column

by **Capt. Miles Mackaness, F/V Lien Machine**

*editor's note: Captain Mackaness is a member of the South Atlantic Council's Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel*

**I**n my travels up and down the southeast coast I would often stop at a previously unvisited inlet and ask the local boat owners, fishers and crew what they thought should be done for the industry, the fish, and the future of fishing. The reply was nearly always the same. "Lots should be done, and although the regulations keep coming, the situation is getting worse and we don't know who will provide the answers."

**Naysayers and skeptics abounded on the waterfront**, moods changed with the fishing and the weather, and it was sometimes hard to see from here to there. Take heart. The answers are coming, and the solution is you.

I have been an observer of the process and an advisory panel member for six years. I don't know about the whole of government; I don't trust it, and am as worried about it as the next person, but, thanks be, our little part of it is starting to work. Things are getting better all the time. I will try to point out why.

We started out with the advent of the Magnuson Act and the establishment of the EEZ. The councils were formed, advisory panels were selected, and problems were identified for correction. Then came the emotions. Overfishing, overpopulation, and pollution had dealt the fisheries some hard blows in the 1980s. This led to a real battle that pitted the recreational fishers against the commercials, both sectors in turn against government, and everyone wondering who had rights to the last fish.

We all fought for years amongst ourselves with an "all or nothing" attitude that helped no one, least of all the fish. People were discouraged, for even as regulations were enacted to control the various interests involved, the overall view remained bleak at best. For a while it was not pleasant, to say the least, and so it came to this: we had to cooperate amongst ourselves, with the government, and with the fish or we would wind up with our brethren on the docks - feeling hopeless.

**"If we pay genuine concern to the overall picture, obtain the best representatives for all the myriad viewpoints, and if we all cooperate, we can succeed."**

Today you would be surprised, if you haven't been to a meeting for a while, at the level of true cooperation that takes place at a snapper grouper advisory panel meeting. Come to one. It doesn't seem to matter if there are ten recreational advisors to one commercial or charterboat advisor, or the other way around. We have reached, through frustrations and over-regulation, a common consensus. If we pay genuine concern to the overall picture, obtain the best representatives for all the myriad viewpoints, and if we all cooperate, we can succeed. All the answers are not in place, but the groundwork is now there. It is involvement, and it is caring and it is coming from us in the community. Even the NOAA lawyers are listening. You can see the direction it is taking, and it's this simple: We want it to work.

We still urge your criticisms, we understand your pessimism, and we also know your skepticism is well-founded, but that is not all that is needed. **We need your knowledge, your participation and your support.** Join an advisory panel or advise your local member about your concerns. We will listen, and we will act for the good of the fish and the community as best as we possibly can. The bigger the input, the better the result. We must know how you feel in order to help you. We are all in it together, and only together will we find the stability we need.

**"Overfishing, overpopulation and pollution had dealt the fisheries some harsh blows in the 1980s. This led to a real battle that pitted the recreational fishers against the commercials, both sectors in turn against the government, and everyone wondering who had rights to the last fish."**

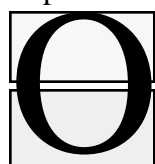
# Council to Take Recreational Sale Issue to Public Hearing



**The South Atlantic Council** voted at the June meeting in Key West to pursue the possibility of restricting the sale of fish harvested under legal bag limits in South Atlantic federal waters (from three to 200 miles offshore).

Fishermen from the commercial and recreational sectors provided the council with a variety of concerns both for and against the practice of allowing recreational anglers to sell their catch. Though attendance at scoping meetings concerning this issue was low, most of those who commented expressed interest in taking it to public hearing.

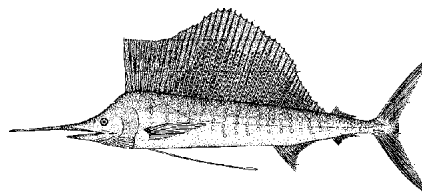
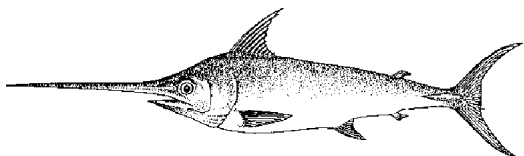
Currently, recreationally harvested fish may be sold in all four states in the council's jurisdiction to licensed wholesale seafood dealers, with the appropriate license (GA: commercial fishing license; SC: land and sell license; NC: vessel endorsement to sell license; and FL: saltwater products license). Federal and state regulations must be compatible because it will be impossible for law enforcement to determine where the fish were harvested.



Of the eight regional fishery management councils, the South Atlantic is one of three which currently allows the sale of recreationally caught fish. Two councils prohibit the sale, two have implemented restrictions in some fisheries, and one council has no regulations for the recreational sector.

Council staff is currently developing an options paper, which will include possible actions the public may comment on during public hearings, ranging from no action at all to completely prohibiting the sale of recreationally caught fish (all species) harvested from South Atlantic federal waters.

The council will revisit this issue at the November 18-22 meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, and may schedule public hearings at that time.



## Acronyms...Acronyms...Acronyms...Acronyms...Acronyms...Acronyms

Due to the technical nature of the material presented in this newsletter (not to mention all the long words!), we're hoping this new table of acronyms will make reading easier and more enjoyable. If you come across an acronym in an article, please refer to this box for its meaning.

ABC - Allowable Biological Catch

AP - Advisory Panel

ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

FMP - Fishery Management Plan

HAPC - Habitat Area of Particular Concern

ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota

MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

OY - Optimum Yield

SMZ - Special Management Zone

SPR - Spawning Potential Ratio

SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee

TAC - Total Allowable Catch

TED - Turtle Excluder Device

## **KING MACKEREL**

**U**pon recommendation by the Mackerel Advisory Panel, the council lowered the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel 1996/1997 TAC from 7.3 million pounds to 6 million pounds, which is toward the higher end of the ABC range. Allocation of the quota is 3.77 million pounds for the recreational sector and 2.23 million pounds for the commercial sector.

The bag limit will remain 3 fish from Georgia north to New York and 2 fish for Florida.

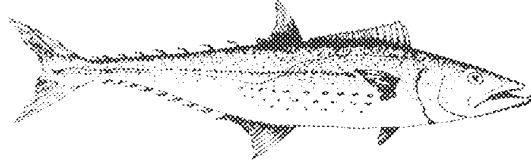
## **SPANISH MACKEREL**

For Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, the council set 1996/1997 TAC at 7 million pounds, the highest possible within the ABC range. Allocation of the quota is evenly split, at 3.5 million pounds for each sector. The bag limit will remain 10 fish throughout the range, from Florida to New York.

The council voted to move the opening of the unlimited Spanish mackerel fishing season from December 1 to November 1, which will make the fish available earlier in the season. The council concluded that the quota will protect the species from any adverse impacts due to the new date. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, harvest will be unlimited.

On other days, the trip limit is 1500 pounds per day. After 75% of the quota is taken, the trip limit will be 1500 pounds per day for all days.

Council rationale for lowering TACs in these fisheries that are not overfished is to achieve a 40% spawning potential ratio level, which will ultimately produce higher yields and allow for higher TACs and trip limits, while insuring that overfishing does not occur. The



council is currently managing at 30% spawning potential ratio, but Amendment 8 proposes to change the target to 40%.

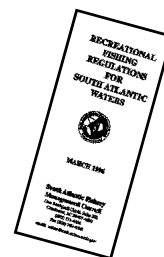
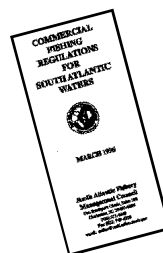
**T**hese framework actions will be submitted in a regulatory amendment to the Secretary of Commerce for approval mid-August. King and Spanish mackerel caught from April 1, 1996 will count towards the commercial and recreational quotas for 1996/1997 upon approval of the amendment. Bag limits will not be changing.

**In other business**, the council voted to request the National Marine Fisheries Service do everything possible to monitor the effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in the shrimp fishery, and determine the impacts of these devices on king and Spanish mackerel stocks. Due to recent budget cuts, the National Marine Fisheries Service indicated they could no longer support BRD research.

**To report fisheries violations in federal waters (from three to 200 miles offshore), please call the NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964. This toll free number is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day from anywhere in the United States.**



**If you are unsure of federal fisheries regulations for South Atlantic waters, call the council office to request our free brochures!**



# New Rock Shrimp Regulations

## Target Oculina Coral Habitat

The Oculina Bank is a unique coral formation off the central east coast of Florida which serves as essential habitat to a rich and diverse variety of fish and invertebrate species. Oculina is a deep water variety of coral, which is slow growing and very fragile. Home and haven to many juvenile species in the snapper grouper management unit such as snowy grouper, the Oculina Bank is also spawning grounds for gag, scamp, and a migratory route for a host of other marine species. The existence of major threats to the coral, such as crushing and breaking of the branches from anchors, grapples, chains, trawls, fish traps and bottom longlines, as well as dredges, prompted the council to create management measures to prevent further destruction and insure the viability of the area.

**"With the recent approval of Amendment one to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, the council extended protection of essential habitat to include a larger area of Oculina coral distribution. This amendment prohibits trawling for or possessing rock shrimp in or from the extended closed area."**

Currently three of the councils fishery management plans contain regulations aimed at protecting these coral formations to aid in conservation of the species which depend on the habitat area for survival.

Many people are unaware about this region, though management extends back to 1982 with the implementation of the council's Coral Fishery Management Plan. This plan designated the greatest distribution of Oculina coral, important as breeding grounds and migratory routes, a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC). The designation of the HAPC prevented further destruction and degradation of these unique coral formations by prohibiting the use of bottom tending fishing gear.

In 1994, the council implemented Amendment 6 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, which called for a ten year experimental closure of the Oculina Bank HAPC to fishing for, or possessing snapper grouper species. During this ten year closure, research will be conducted to describe the characteristics of a closed area, as well as the effects of a protected habitat area on fish populations.

Recognizing that anchoring on top of coral and coral reef systems can disrupt and destroy reef communities, the council implemented Coral Amendment 3 in 1995, which included a provision to prohibit anchoring of all commercial and recreational fishing vessels in the HAPC. This was intended to enhance existing regulations and to maximize the likelihood that essential fishery habitat in the experimental closed area would be protected.

Finally, with the recent approval of Amendment one to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, the council extended protection of essential habitat to include a larger area of Oculina coral distribution. This amendment prohibits trawling for or possessing rock shrimp in or from the extended closed area (see coordinates below; map on page 7). The final rule for Amendment 1 will be published by the end of July, and regulations will become effective in August.

Currently, surface trolling and diving for fish other than species in the snapper grouper complex is allowed in the Oculina Bank; however, no vessels may anchor in the area.

The South Atlantic Council now offers a free brochure, containing detailed information about Oculina coral habitat and the closed areas. If you would like a copy, contact the council office at (803) 571-4366.

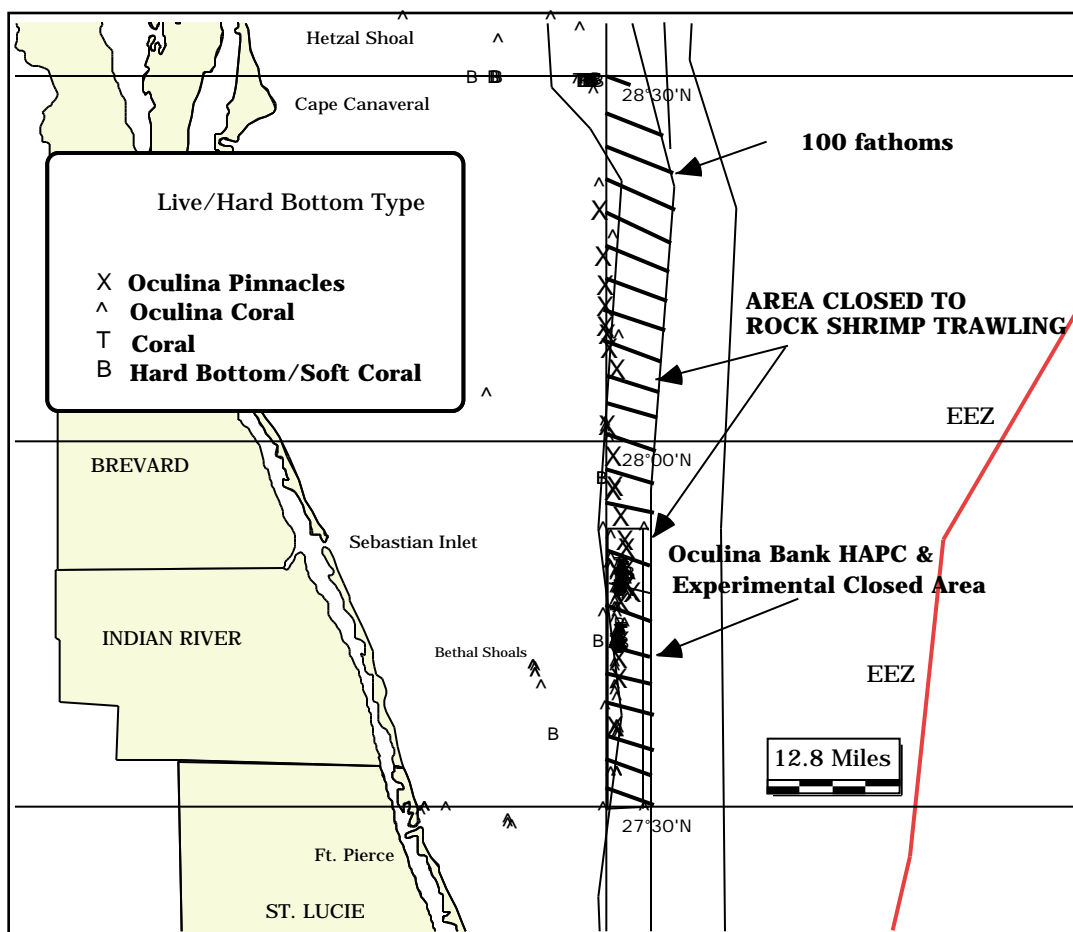
### HAPC Coordinates

Point	Lat./Long.	LORAN
SE corner	27°30' N., 79°56' W.	43250.2, 61921.3
NE corner	27°53' N., 79°56' W.	43472.9, 61869.5
SW corner	27°30' N., 80°00' W.	43261.4, 61944.0
SE corner	27°53' N., 80°00' W.	43487.3, 61893.2

### Area Closed to Rock Shrimp Trawling

Trawling for, or possessing rock shrimp in an area bounded to the west by 80° W longitude, to the north by 28°30' N latitude, to the south by 27°30' N latitude, and to the east by the 100 fathom (600 feet) depth contour, is prohibited.

# Oculina Habitat and Closed Areas



**The South Atlantic Council, (803) 571-4366, manages the following species in the South Atlantic EEZ:**

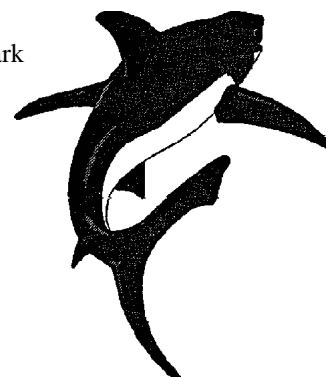
- Coastal Migratory Pelagics (mackerels) - managed jointly with the Gulf Council (813) 228-2815
- Coral
- Red Drum
- Shrimp
- Snapper Grouper
- Spiny Lobster - managed jointly with the Gulf Council
- Golden Crab

**The following species are managed by councils adjacent to South Atlantic federal waters:**

- Bluefish - managed jointly by the Mid-Atlantic Council (302) 674-2331 and ASMFC (202) 289-6400; regulations apply throughout the South Atlantic EEZ.
- Sea Scallops - managed by the New England Council (617) 231-0422
- Summer Flounder - managed jointly by the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC; regulations apply from North Carolina through Maine.

**The following species are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (813) 570-5326:**

- Billfish
- Swordfish
- Tuna
- Shark



# Another Perspective on Advisory Panels:

## A guest column by Bob Pelosi

Serving as a Mackerel Advisory Panel member since 1984 and presiding as chairman the last ten years has been a very rewarding experience.

Over the past 12 years, the two main fisheries covered under this plan, king and Spanish mackerel, went from underfished and very plentiful the first year of the council's existence to overfished and collapsed in a few short years. During the collapse years, advisory panels were created by the council to act as sounding boards for proposals, to seek advice from a cross-section of user groups, and to help set allocations, total allowable catch, recreational bag limits and commercial quotas. Often there was a vast difference in opinions on how the fisheries should be regulated, but all agreed the stocks were in trouble and tough regulations were proposed and implemented.

**A**fter a few years, the severe catch restrictions began to pay off and stocks started to recover. When all indicators pointed toward healthy stocks, the AP recommended increasing the total allowable catches by raising the commercial quotas and recreational bag limits. The council concurred and implemented the changes.

Currently, our Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel stocks are not overfished. It is the intent of all concerned to keep these stocks in good condition for the future. The management crisis for these species is over. With more accurate stock assessment, advisory panels will be able to fine tune management and recommend more frequent changes in catch restrictions so that all user groups may harvest as many fish as possible, while at the same time also keeping the stocks healthy.

The rebuilding of king and Spanish mackerel stocks from an overfished, collapsed state to a healthy population was one of the first council successes under the Magnuson Act. The members who have served on this advisory panel and I are proud to have been an active part in this success.

**"Often there was a vast difference in opinions on how the fisheries should be regulated, but all agreed the stocks were in trouble..."**

## Advisory Panel Service: Best way to Implement Change

The South Atlantic Council tries to appoint a broad representation of various user groups and regions for our advisory panels. Exceptions to this rule may be if we do not receive applications from a certain sector or area. If you are a knowledgeable fisherman and can give a couple of days per year to attend meetings, chances are you are exactly what we are looking for.

Fisheries management is based on a grassroots principle, with fishermen like you providing valuable information about your fisheries the council needs before determining what, if any, regulations are needed to conserve fish stocks in South Atlantic federal waters.

**The goal of fisheries management** is to manage the level of harvest at maximum sustainable yield; that is, allowing enough harvest to meet market demand, while leaving enough stock to replenish the population.

The regional fishery management councils were established as non-governmental bodies, charged with establishing fishery conservation measures based on the best scientific data available in conjunction with input from fishermen about trends you see in your area of expertise.

If you would like to become a part of the management process by serving on one of our advisory panels, call the council office to request an application (803) 571-4366.

If you would like to contact one of our current advisory panel members with a concern about a fishery we manage, call the council office to request a South Atlantic Council membership directory.



# Center Works with Fishermen to Improve Logbook System

*editor's note: Information obtained from logbook reports are valuable to the council in determining social and economic impacts of fisheries regulations on fishermen, their markets and communities. This information not only improves fishery statistics, but also aids the council by monitoring fishing activities.*

*Recently, the logbook report system has come under fire by commercial fishermen who believe the logbook system is too new to base management decisions on. The council also voiced concern about the 60-day grace period at the end of the 12-month reporting period, during which time fishermen may file any missing reports from their file, leaving room for errors or falsification of documents.*

*The council voted at the June meeting to delete the mandatory logbook report requirement for snapper grouper permit renewals from Amendment 9.*

*John Poffenberger, Supervisory Survey Statistician with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, Florida, gave a presentation on the logbook programs in the Southeast and Northeast Regions to the council during the June meeting. Mr. Poffenberger outlined the reasons for logbook programs, and compared the programs in both regions. Below is an overview of the presentation.*

Overall, the programs in the two Regions are very similar, although they were developed and are run separately. The program in the Southeast is slightly more diversified than the program in the Northeast in that there are two types of logbook forms to accommodate substantial differences in fishing techniques. The vessels and boats in the Southeast have been issued permits for multiple fisheries.

**D**ifferent reporting forms and the requirement to report for each fishery that the vessel has been issued a permit has caused some confusion for the fishermen. Some of these concerns were discussed at the council meeting.

The delineation between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic jurisdiction off the southeast coast of Florida was unclear from the map provided in the logbooks. A more detailed and clearer map has been provided to fishermen in the Florida Keys who fish both areas.

Because a vessel's permit is not renewed if the logbook reporting requirements have not been met, fishermen are concerned about forms that have been sent but apparently not received or processed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. The procedures that are used to process the logbook forms were reviewed. The Center makes every attempt to assure that forms are not being lost after they are received at the Center. If the forms are properly used, there is a copy for the fishermen's record with each form. If a specific form was not received, the fishermen should have a record of it and is requested to submit a photocopy of their copy. The Center will also initiate periodic notifications to the fishermen when no reports have been received.

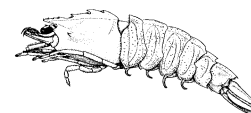
Trap fishermen had some concern about how fishing effort is recorded on the current form. It may be necessary to modify the form so trap fishing effort can be reported more accurately. Such changes will not be made, however, until suitable procedures are discussed and confirmed with the fishermen.

Workshops with fishermen were discussed as a means of providing instructions on how the forms are to be completed and also a means of gathering input and suggestions on ways to improve the logbook program. The Center will begin planning workshops for local areas when the budget for next year is available.



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## Fisheries Regulations Follow-up



Final rules for both the **Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan** and **Shrimp Amendment 1 (Rock Shrimp)** will be published in the Federal Register by the end of July. The council will mail the final rule to those who indicated they would like receive specific fisheries-related information on our mailing list. If you are unsure whether or not you are on our golden crab or rock shrimp mailing lists, please call the council office at (803) 571-4366.

**Please be aware** that fishermen interested in obtaining golden crab permits will have 30 days after publication of the final rule to apply for the permits.

The **Spiny Lobster** season opens on August 5 off the coast of Florida. It was previously thought that federal regulations for this species would be abolished by August, but that has not happened, so current regulations are still in effect.

# South Atlantic Council Meeting

**The next council meeting will be in Charleston, South Carolina from August 19-23, 1996** at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway; telephone: (803) 571-1000. To receive the council room rate, reservations must be made by August 9. The preliminary agenda is:

## **Monday, August 19, 1996**

1:30 - 5:30 - The Advisory Panel Selection Committee will review all advisory panels and recommend new member appointments to fill vacancies. (Closed session).

## **Tuesday, August 20, 1996**

8:30 - 12:00 - The Snapper Grouper and Controlled Access Committees will revise Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 and may approve it for public hearing  
1:30 - 5:00 - Snapper Grouper Committee will revise Snapper Grouper Amendment 8 and may approve it for public hearing.

## **Wednesday, August 21, 1996**

8:30 - 12:00 - Snapper Grouper Committee  
1:30 - 5:00 - The Mackerel Committee will review the Gulf King Mackerel Assessment, the status of Atlantic king mackerel catches, hear status reports on trip limits, 1996/96 framework actions, and Amendment 8, and discuss incidental allocation of king and Spanish mackerel for the shark fishery in Georgia and Florida.

## **Thursday, August 22, 1996, 8:30 - 5:00;**

## **Friday, August 23, 1996, 8:30 - 11:00**

The full council will meet to review the status of Mackerel Amendment 8, the Mackerel Regulatory Amendment and framework adjustments, approve Snapper Grouper Amendments 8 and 9 for public hearing, and appoint new advisory panel members.

**The last council meeting of 1996 will be held in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, from November 18-22.**

**The council is currently working on the 1997 meeting schedule.**

# CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS REPLACE REGULATIONS FOR EACH FISHERY

Gregg T. Waugh  
Deputy Executive Director

Fishermen requesting copies of regulations implementing fishery management plans should be aware that they will now receive regulations for all South Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean fishery management plans.

Previously fishermen could request individual sets of regulations pertaining to the South Atlantic Council's management plans for Shrimp, Coral, Spiny Lobster, Mackerel and Snapper Grouper.

Fishermen will now be provided a consolidated regulations package containing all FMP-regulations for the South Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean organized not by fishery but by management measure.

The current consolidated document does not include spiny lobster regulations and golden crab regulations. The golden crab regulations should be added by the end of July 1996. The Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan was proposed to be withdrawn but NMFS has delayed any further action until they have a chance to coordinate with the councils. In the interim, the current spiny lobster regulations remain in effect.

The National Marine Fisheries Service received the directive to reduce regulations by consolidating regulations within each region.  
**Please direct all questions and comments to:**

**Mr. Rolland A. Schmitt**  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 713-2239 Phone  
(301) 713-2258 FAX

**Please contact the following state agencies for regulations up to three miles offshore (state waters) in the South Atlantic:**

Florida Marine Fisheries Commission  
2540 Executive Center Circle West, Suite 106  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(904) 487-0554

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way  
Brunswick, GA 31523-8600  
(912) 264-7218

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
P.O. Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
(919) 726-7021

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29412  
(803) 795-6350

The South Atlantic Council, one of eight U.S. regional fishery management councils, establishes conservation measures to ensure the viability of marine resources in federal waters (from three to two hundred nautical miles) off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida. Fishery Management Plans prepared by the council are designed to produce optimum yield, while preventing overfishing of our valuable resources. Council staff is available to answer questions during business hours by telephone at (803) 571-4366; by FAX at (803) 769-4520; or by E-Mail at [safmc@safmc.nmfs.gov](mailto:safmc@safmc.nmfs.gov).

### *Editor's Note*

The South Atlantic Update is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Susan Buchanan, Editor, South Atlantic Update, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: [Susan\\_Buchanan@safmc.nmfs.gov](mailto:Susan_Buchanan@safmc.nmfs.gov)



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### **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**Robert K. Mahood**  
Executive Director

**Gregg T. Waugh**  
Deputy Executive Director

#### **VOTING MEMBERS Designated State Officials**

**David Cupka, Chairman**  
Charleston, SC  
(803) 795-6350

**Russell Nelson**  
Tallahassee, FL  
(904) 487-0554

**Susan Shipman**  
Brunswick, GA  
(912) 264-7218

**Dennis Spitsbergen**  
Morehead City, NC  
(919) 726-7021

#### **Appointed Obligatory Members**

**John D. Brownlee**  
N. Palm Beach, FL  
(407) 848-1118

**Jodie Gay**  
Hampstead, NC  
(910) 270-3718

**Belinda F. Flanigan**  
Tybee Island, GA  
(912) 786-9857

**Charles Stone**  
Murrells Inlet, SC  
(803) 651-1645

#### **Appointed At-Large Members**

**Ben Hartig, Vice-Chairman**  
Hobe Sound, FL  
(407) 546-1541

**Fulton Love**  
Savannah, GA  
(912) 925-3616

**John F. Floyd**  
Spartanburg, SC  
(803) 573-7271

**Pete Moffitt**  
Swansboro, NC  
(919) 393-8813

#### **NMFS Regional Director**

**Andrew Kemmerer**  
St. Petersburg, FL  
(813) 893-3141

#### **Non-Voting Members**

**ASMFC**  
Washington, DC  
(202) 452-8700

**US Fish & Wildlife**  
Atlanta, GA  
(404) 331-3588

**US Coast Guard**  
Miami, FL  
(305) 536-5654

**State Department**  
Washington, DC  
(202) 647-7948

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- **Do you know what advisory panels are all about? See pages 2, 3, & 8**
- **Welcome Baby Sinnett! See page 2**
- **Do you know who to report fisheries violations to? See page 5**
- **The Oculina Bank is now CLOSED to rock shrimp trawling. See pages 6 & 7 for a map of the area.**
- **Wondering what's happening with golden crab, rock shrimp and spiny lobster management? See page 9**